Hal Verb
P. O. Box 1815
San Francisco, CA 94101

ans. 1/7/90

JAN. 3, 1990

Dear Hal=

Sorry I couldn't write you sooner than this but it's been a hectic few months. I've been involved with a group called the "Nicaragua Solidarity Committee" here in the Bay Area and they've been working almost around the clock doing propaganda work confronting the media distortions about the up coming february elections in Nicaragua. You can expect more disinformation & trumped up events or "crises" by the U.S. to make Nicaragua look bad. The recent murder ambush of the two nuns by the Contras is not an unexpected event. The contras were probably emboldened by the U.S. invasion of Panama. Bush's action makes Hegel's statement that the only thing we learn from history is that we don't learn from history. Santayana said something equivalent - I'm sure you recall it. The sentiment is not new - all historians of any substance have recognized it.

I'm enclosing a couple of articles related to the JFK assassination. Unfortunately I don't have dates on either one. The Inquirer is, of course, the Philadelphia Inquirer. Both were printed by the Inquirer and one is taken from a Miami Herald article (this is the one on Jackie). One thing that bothered me about the Gruden article where it states (near the end) that Gruden "asserted that photographs of the slain president were altered to make it appear he was shot in the back of the head."

I doubt that Groden made such a direct statement and it's my belief that the reporter, Maida Odom, erred in stating that the photos were altered. As far as I know no photos were ever altered. Recreated drawings were left deliberately misleading is the best that one could say. The problem with this article then would be that many people would reject the notion that photos could have been altered — they'd say it's another of those hare-brained ideas of the "conspiracy nuts".

I think I mentioned to you that I heard John Stockwell speak. I believe it was sometime at the end of October. He touched upon the assassination (JFK's). He's one of the more responsible critics of the cold war so a lot of people pay a great deal of attention. Stockwell said you could get a copy of the talk he gave here in S.F. by writing to = BIL FASON — 504 W. 24th apt. #79 in Austin, Texas 78705 (phone # 512-469-9418). I took notes but didn't tape it. Some of the things he talked about relating to the JFK assassination showed him taking a much more positive stance on what he believed happened (up to now he's been reluctant to say what he thought took place). He said the JFK event was done by "a paramilitary team in a paramilitary action". He said that bullets fired into the concrete (along Elm St.) were "some kind of diversion". Robert Kennedy, claimed Stockwell, was

pursuing J. Edgar Hoover as a criminal. On the day of the ass'n J. Edgar Hoover, according to Stockwell, disconnected the phone between him and RFK. (I wasn't sure if Stockwell meant on the day of RFK's assassination or JFK's because as I recall, it was Hoover who first notified Bobby that JFK was definitely dead & Hoover couldn't have done it when he'd had the phone disconnected. I couldn't be sure if Stockwell was relating something he had read or if this was something told to him by some agent or one "in the know". Stockwell did mention the "High treason" book and said that that work listed 49 persons killed who were somehow involved or aware of the JFK plot.

This is the furthest Stockwell had gone out on a limb. He has the reputation of not being "far out". From what he said that night it wasn't clear to me that he'd gotten these notions from things he read or that he has some confidants he knows (whom I'm sure he won't reveal) that have gotten his ear. Perhaps a combination of the two with most of it leaning on what he's read.

By the way I thought I'd let you know that I'm definitely considering a visit to the Washington, D.C. area in late March and early April of this year. There's a conference being held from March 30 to April 1st at the "Hyatt Regency Crystal City" located

at the Washington Nat'l Airport. The conference is entitled "CRITICAL THINKING & SCIENTIFIC LITERACY". It's sponsored by the "SKEPTICAL INQUIRER" magazine which publishes out of Buffalo, N.Y. They "debunk" a lot of the claims of the paranormal & "new-age" thinking. People like Asimov, Carl Sagan, B.F. Skinner, Martin Gardner are on the Committee. (You may have heard of them (I mean the "Skeptical Inquirer")).

In any event this will give me the opportunity to see you. I can't say now whether it'll be before March 30th or after April 1st as I haven't made any reservations yet, but I'll keep you posted if I do determine my precise schedule.

Otherwise, everything is fine with me. I still do research for my book but I've got to start sitting down & writing it in chapter form. I've amassed a great deal of info — now all I need is to establish a format & continuity.

Well, hope you and your wife are fine. I'm really looking forward to being on the East coast again. Do keep in touch!

Best,
Hal